

Czechoslovakia

FDD Abstract [REDACTED]

1951 PRAGUE FAIR; TRANSIT RATES FOR POLISH
COAL; WHY THE PRODUCTION PLAN FAILED

7 pages; [REDACTED]

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This document consists of three enclosures, of two, one, and four pages respectively.

The first enclosure describes the Prague Fair of 20 May to 3 June 1951 in very general terms. It refers, without elaboration, to the displays of the USSR and People's Democracies, including East Germany and China, and to the separate pavilion for Czechoslovak heavy industry, where heavy tractors from the Sokolov Works were displayed. It reports an impressive amount of new building on the fair grounds. It states that foreigners had much greater difficulty in obtaining entrance visas this year (about 35 were allotted to Austria), and predicts that this will be the last Prague Fair.

The second document reports that the new rates for shipments of coal among the People's Democracies will be 3 kopecks (0.375 Czechoslovak crowns) per ton-kilometer. The new rate for Polish coal in transit to Austria on the 201-kilometer Vrbice - Breclav route will be 75.40 Czechoslovak crowns per ton, as compared with the old rates of 159 crowns (standard rate) and 131 (special rate). The new rates will apply after the end of a meeting now (June [1951?]) in progress in Budapest.

The third enclosure discusses the reasons for the failure of Czechoslovak industry to fulfill its plan in 1950 and in January 1951. It analyzes the production failures of the following branches of industry: coal, heavy industry, vehicles, machines and precision instruments, light industry, glass, wood, and textiles. Increases in production costs and wages since 1949 are given in percentages, but no absolute production figures are given. Strikes in Kladno and Moravska Ostrava are mentioned, without elaboration.

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3 August 1951

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